

Letter from Simon Newcomb to Alexander Graham Bell, August 12, 1904

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530 Bond Building, Washington, D. C. August 12, 1904. Dear Dr. Bell:

Most of the European delegates to the International Congress of Arts and Science, to
the number of probably between fifty and eighty, will come to Washington immediately
after the Congress, in order to pay their respects to the President, and see our city and
its institutions. This occasion would offer such a rare opportunity of enabling a few of
our scientific men and other citizens to meet a large body of eminent men from various
countries, that I have for some time had it in view to arrange a reception. The date would
probably be Wednesday, September 28. I have, until recently, supposed that so few
people would then be at home that only a small number of invitations would be accepted,
and I would be able to handle the whole matter myself. But I find on inquiry that nearly all
the scientific men and, probably, quite a number of the officials will be within reach. It has
therefore occurred to me that possibly two or three of our citizens especially interested
might be pleased to join in the invitation, and render assistance in making the externals

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of the occasion as well as its personnel attractive. Two or three contributions 2 of one hundred dollars each, added to what I expect to put in myself, would enable us to have at least a respectable reception in Rauscher's. You are doubtless aware that these are the finest rooms available for the purpose.

Yours very sincerely, S. Newcomb Dr Alexander Graham Bell, 1331 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D. C.